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Prisoners in 1988

The number of prisoners under the jurisdiction of Federal or State correctional authorities at yearend 1988 reached a record 627,402. The States and the District of Columbia added 41,339 prisoners; the Federal system, 1,628. The increase for 1988 brings total growth in the prison population since 1980 to 297,581--an increase of about 90% in the 8-year period (table 1).

The 1988 growth rate (7.4%) was greater than the percentage increase recorded during 1987 (7.2%), and the number of new prisoners added during 1988, 42,967, was about 3,500 higher than the number added during the preceding year (39,463). The 1988 increase translates into a nationwide need for more than 800 new prison bedspaces per week.

Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year (referred to as "sentenced prisoners") accounted for 96% of the total prison population at the end of 1988, growing by 7.8% during the year (table 2). The remaining prisoners had sentences of a year or less or were unsentenced (like those, for example, awaiting trial in States with combined prison-jail systems).

The number of sentenced Federal prisoners grew at nearly the same rate as sentenced prisoners in the States during the year (8.1% vs. 7.7%). Among the 7,190 Federal prisoners with no sentences or sentences of 1 year or less were 1,856 under the jurisdiction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, a decrease of 528 from the number held at the end of 1987 (2,384). The number of Federal prisoners with no sentences or sentences of less than 1 year declined by 1,587 during 1988 (from 8,777 to 7,190), while the number of sentenced prisoners increased by 3,215.

In 7 States total prison populations decreased by a total of 961 inmates during 1988. Four of these States--North Carolina, South Dakota, Washington, and West Virginia--also reported declines in 1987. Compared to yearend 1986 counts, the number of prisoners at the end of 1988 was 3.6% lower than 2 years earlier in North Carolina, 12.4% lower in South Dakota, 11.9% lower in Washington, and 1.6% lower in West Virginia.

Total prison population rose most rapidly during 1988 in Rhode Island (33.5%), Colorado (24.7%), New Hampshire (17.5%), Michigan (16.1%), and California (13.7%). Nine States and the District of Columbia reported total prisoner increases of 10% or more since yearend 1987. California's increase of nearly 9,200 prisoners during the year was the largest for any single jurisdiction. Although California had 11.5% of all the Nation's prisoners at the end of 1987, its prison population growth in 1988 accounted for 21% of the national increase. Colorado, for the second year in a row, experienced an annual increase of more than 20% in the number of State prisoners; its yearend 1988 population of 5,997 was 58% higher than the yearend 1986 population of 3,804.

Table 1. Change in the State and Federal prison populations, 1980-88

Year	Number of inmates	Annual percent change	Total percent change since 1980
1980	329,821		
1981	369,930	12.2%	12.2%
1982	413,806	11.9	25.5
1983	437,248	5.7	32.6
1984	464,567	6.2	40.9
1985	502,507	8.2	52.4
1986	544,972	8.5	65.2
1987	584,435	7.2	77.2
1988	627,402	7.4	90.2

Note: All counts are for December 31 of each year and may differ from previously reported numbers because of revision.

April 1989

This Bulletin presents population counts for the Nation's prisons on December 31, 1988. Prison population increased 7.4% during 1988, a slightly higher rate than in 1987. The 1988 increase of 43,000 prisoners approximately equals a demand for more than 800 new prison beds per week. The number of prisoners at the end of the year set a new record for the 14th consecutive year.

The Bureau of Justice Statistics expresses its appreciation to the departments of corrections in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal prison system, who make it possible for us to continue to gather and report data on the Nation's prisoners.

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Acting Director

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Table 2. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by region and State, yearend 1987 and 1988

	Total			Sentenced to more than 1 year			
	Advance 1988	Final 1987	Percent change 1987-88	Advance 1988	Final 1987	Percent change 1987-88	Incarceration rate 1988[a]
U.S. total	627,402	584,435	7.4%	603,928	560,459	7.8%	244
Federal	49,928	48,300	3.4	42,738	39,523	8.1	17
State	577,474	536,135	7.7	561,190	520,936	7.7	227
Northeast	99,146	90,815	9.2%	94,770	87,168	8.7%	187
Connecticut	8,005	7,511	6.6	4,723	4,637	1.9	146
Maine	1,267	1,328	-4.3	1,214	1,267	-4.2	100
Massachusetts	6,733	6,265	7.5	6,733	6,265	7.5	114
New Hampshire	1,019	867	17.5	1,019	867	17.5	93
New Jersey[b]	16,936	15,548	8.9	16,936	15,548	8.9	219
New York	44,560	40,842	9.1	44,560	40,842	9.1	248
Pennsylvania	17,879	16,267	9.9	17,862	16,246	9.9	148
Rhode Island	1,906	1,428	33.5	1,179	991	19.0	118
Vermont	811	759	6.9	544	505	7.7	97
Midwest	120,415	110,846	8.6%	120,008	110,463	8.6%	200
Illinois	21,081	19,850	6.2	21,081	19,850	6.2	181
Indiana	11,406	10,827	5.3	11,271	10,634	6.0	202
Iowa	3,034	2,851	6.4	3,034	2,851	6.4	107
Kansas	5,936	5,781	2.7	5,936	5,781	2.7	237
Michigan	27,714	23,879	16.1	27,714	23,879	16.1	299
Minnesota	2,799	2,546	9.9	2,799	2,546	9.9	64
Missouri	12,354	11,146	10.8	12,354	11,146	10.8	239
Nebraska	2,205	2,086	5.7	2,111	1,963	7.5	131
North Dakota	466	430	8.4	414	380	8.9	62
Ohio	26,113	24,220	7.8	26,113	24,220	7.8	240
South Dakota	1,020	1,133	-10.0	1,020	1,133	-10.0	143
Wisconsin	6,287	6,097	3.1	6,161	6,080	1.3	126
South	233,333	222,778	4.7%	226,444	215,755	5.0%	266
Alabama	12,610	12,827	-1.7	12,357	12,602	-1.9	300
Arkansas	5,519	5,441	1.4	5,519	5,441	1.4	230
Delaware	3,166	2,939	7.7	2,359	2,116	11.5	354
District of Columbia[b]	8,705	7,645	13.9	6,340	5,614	12.9	1,031
Florida	34,732	32,445	7.0	34,681	32,360	7.2	278
Georgia	18,787	18,575	1.1	18,018	17,724	1.7	281
Kentucky[b]	7,119	6,436	10.6	7,119	6,436	10.6	191
Louisiana	16,149	15,375	5.0	16,149	15,375	5.0	368
Maryland	14,276	13,467	6.0	13,572	12,912	5.1	291
Mississippi	7,438	6,880	8.1	7,304	6,719	8.7	279
North Carolina	17,069	17,218	-.9	16,326	16,118	1.3	250
Oklahoma	10,448	9,639	8.4	10,448	9,639	8.4	323
South Carolina	13,745	12,664	8.5	12,938	11,862	9.1	370
Tennessee	7,491	7,624	-1.7	7,491	7,624	-1.7	152
Texas	40,437	38,821	4.2	40,437	38,821	4.2	240
Virginia	14,184	13,321	6.5	13,928	12,931	7.7	250
West Virginia	1,458	1,461	-.2	1,458	1,461	-.2	78
West	124,580	111,896	11.5%	119,968	107,550	11.5%	234
Alaska	2,589	2,528	2.4	1,862	1,767	5.4	355
Arizona	12,158	10,948	11.1	11,639	10,558	10.2	329
California	76,171	66,975	13.7	73,780	64,812	13.8	257
Colorado	5,997	4,808	24.7	5,997	4,808	24.7	181
Hawaii	2,367	2,268	4.4	1,510	1,536	-1.7	136
Idaho	1,548	1,435	7.9	1,548	1,435	7.9	154
Montana	1,272	1,187	7.2	1,272	1,187	7.2	158
Nevada	4,881	4,434	10.1	4,881	4,434	10.1	452
New Mexico	2,825	2,710	4.2	2,723	2,626	3.7	180
Oregon	5,991	5,482	9.3	5,991	5,482	9.3	215
Utah	2,094	1,874	6.9	1,987	1,858	6.9	117
Washington	5,816	6,131	-5.1	5,816	6,131	-5.1	124
Wyoming	962	916	5.0	962	916	5.0	203

Note: Explanatory notes for each jurisdiction are reported in the Appendix. Prisoner counts for 1987 may differ from those reported in previous publications. Counts for 1988 are subject to revision as updated figures become available.

[a]The number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 resident population on December 31, 1988.

[b]Figures for 1987 and 1988 are not comparable to those for previous years because of the inclusion of additional jail inmates.

Rates of incarceration increase

On December 31, 1988, the number of sentenced prisoners per 100,000 residents was 244, also setting a new record. Eleven of the seventeen jurisdictions with rates equal to or greater than the rate for the Nation were located in the South, 4 were in the West, and 1 each was in the Midwest and Northeast.

Since 1980 the number of sentenced inmates per 100,000 residents has risen nearly 76%, from 139 to 244. During this period per capita incarceration rates have grown most rapidly in the West, increasing by 123% (from 105 to 234), compared to 115% in the Northeast (from 87 to 187), 83% in the Midwest (from 109 to 200), and 41% in the South (from 188 to 266). The number of sentenced Federal prisoners per 100,000 U.S. residents has increased 89% (from 9 to 17) over the same period.

Western States grow faster than other regions

During 1988 the growth in the sentenced prisoner population in the Western States, 11.5%, was higher than in the other regions. The number of sentenced prisoners grew by 8.7% in the Northeast, 8.6% in the Midwest, and 5.0% in the Southern States. The sentenced Federal prison population grew by 8.1%. Since 1980 sentenced prison populations in Western States have increased more than 166%, compared to growth of nearly 120% in the Northeast, 86% in the Midwest, and 59% in the South (table 3). Over the same period the number of sentenced Federal prisoners grew by 107%. Overall, the number of sentenced prisoners nationwide has increased by 91% since 1980, from 315,974 to 603,928.

Since 1980, 18 States, the District of Columbia, and the Federal prison system have more than doubled the number of sentenced prisoners, and Alaska, California, New Hampshire, and New Jersey have experienced a threefold increase. In 1980 these 4 States housed 29,725 sentenced prisoners or 9.4% of the Nation's sentenced prisoners. In 1988 they housed 93,597 or 15.5% of the sentenced inmates nationwide.

California's increase of 50,516 sentenced prisoners since 1980 accounts for 67% of the increase for the West and 19% of the increase among all States over the period. In 1980, 7.9% of the Nation's sentenced State prisoners were in California; in 1988, 13.1%. (For additional State comparisons, see table 4.)

Table 3. Percent change in sentenced prison population from 1980 to 1988, by region and State

Region	Percent increase									
	0-49%		50%-79%		80%-99%		100%-149%		150% or more	
Northeast			Vermont	51.9	Maine	80.9	New York	105.9	New Jersey	204.4
			Connecticut	71.6	Rhode Island	93.0	Massachusetts	113.7	New Hampshire	212.6
							Pennsylvania	120.2		
Midwest	Iowa	22.4	Nebraska	50.6	Michigan	83.2	Missouri	115.8		
	Minnesota	39.9	Wisconsin	54.8	Ohio	93.6	North Dakota	123.8		
			S. Dakota	67.5	Illinois	96.6	Kansas	138.0		
			Indiana	79.4						
South	Tennessee	6.7	Georgia	51.1	Louisiana	81.7	Delaware	117.0		
	N. Carolina	12.9	Virginia	62.3	Arkansas	89.6	Oklahoma	117.8		
	W. Virginia	16.0	Florida	71.6	Mississippi	92.6	Dist. of Col.	133.2		
	Texas	35.3	S. Carolina	74.2	Alabama	94.0				
			Maryland	75.6	Kentucky	98.4				
West	Washington	32.2	Montana	72.4	Wyoming	80.1	Utah	114.1	Nevada	165.4
					Oregon	88.9	New Mexico	127.1	Arizona	166.9
					Idaho	89.5	Colorado	129.9	California	217.1
							Hawaii	142.0	Alaska	226.1
Regional totals			South	58.7	Midwest	86.1	Northeast	119.6	West	166.3
U.S. summary					States	90.0	Federal	107.4		
					Total	91.1				

Note: Sentenced prisoners are those with sentences of more than 1 year.

Table 4. The prison situation among the States, yearend 1988

10 States with the largest 1988 prison populations	Number of inmates	10 States with the highest incarceration rates, 1988*	Prisoners per 100,000 residents	10 States with the largest percent increases in prison population			
				1987-88	Percent increase	1980-88*	Percent increase
California	76,171	Nevada	452	Rhode Island	33.5%	Alaska	226.1%
New York	44,560	South Carolina	370	Colorado	24.7	California	217.1
Texas	40,137	Louisiana	368	New Hampshire	17.5	New Hampshire	212.6
Florida	34,732	Alaska	355	Michigan	16.1	New Jersey	204.4
Michigan	27,714	Delaware	354	California	13.7	Arizona	166.9
Ohio	26,113	Arizona	329	Arizona	11.1	Nevada	165.4
Illinois	21,081	Oklahoma	323	Missouri	10.8	Hawaii	142.0
Georgia	18,787	Alabama	300	Kentucky	10.6	Kansas	138.0
Pennsylvania	17,879	Michigan	299	Nevada	10.1	Colorado	129.9
North Carolina	17,069	Maryland	291	Minnesota	9.9	New Mexico	127.1

Note: The District of Columbia as a wholly urban jurisdiction is excluded. *Prisoners with sentences of more than 1 year.

Female prisoner population growth outpaces that of males

Women inmates numbered 32,691, increasing at a faster rate during 1988 (12.5%) than males (7.1%) (table 5). The rate of incarceration for sentenced males (476 per 100,000 males in the resident population), however, was about 20 times higher than for sentenced females (24 per 100,000 females in the resident population).

The female prison population has grown more rapidly than the male population in each year since 1981. The higher growth rates for women over the 1981-88 period have raised the female percent of the Nation's prison population from 4.2% in 1981 to 5.2% in 1988 (table 6).

In 1988, 21 States and the Federal system had more than 500 female inmates. Among there jurisdictions, 14 had increases of at least 10%, led by Connecticut's increase of 21.7% (from 452 in 1987 to 550 in 1988). California's increase during 1988, 741 inmates, accounted for more than 20% of the nationwide increase of 3,627.

More than 14,000 in local jails because of State prison crowding

At the end of 1988, 17 States reported a total of 14,314 State prisoners held in local jails because of crowding in State facilities (table 7). The number of State prisoners held locally increased by 18.5% over that of yearend 1987. Three States--Louisiana, New Jersey, and Tennessee--accounted for nearly three-fifths of the State-sentenced prisoners held locally. Six States--Idaho, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Tennessee--held more than 10% of their State-sentenced prisoners in local jails because of State facility crowding. Overall, 2.5% of the State prison population was confined in local jails on December 31, 1988, because of prison crowding.

Table 5. Prisoners under the jurisdiction of State or Federal correctional authorities, by sex, yearend 1987 and 1988

	Male	Female
Total		
Advance 1988	594,711	32,691
Final 1987	555,371	29,064
Percent change 1987-88	7.1%	12.5%
Sentenced to more than 1 year		
Advance 1988	573,502	30,426
Final 1987	533,521	26,938
Percent change 1987-88	7.5%	12.9%
Incarceration rate 1988*	476	24

*The number of prisoners sentenced to more than 1 year per 100,000 residents of each sex on December 31, 1988.

Table 6. Women under the jurisdiction of State or Federal institutions, yearend 1988

Jurisdiction	Number of women inmates	Percent of all inmates	Percent change in women inmate population, 1987-88
U.S. total	32,691	5.2%	12.5%
Federal	3,242	6.5	7.1
State	29,449	5.1	13.1
States with at least 500 women inmates:			
California	4,893	6.4%	17.8%
Florida	2,011	5.8	19.6
New York	1,760	3.9	18.4
Texas	1,648	4.1	6.9
Ohio	1,524	5.8	17.7
Michigan	1,333	4.8	13.7
Georgia	929	4.9	.1
Illinois	899	4.3	15.4
South Carolina	783	5.7	18.5
North Carolina	782	4.8	-3.2
Louisiana	780	4.8	15.9
Alabama	752	6.0	2.7
Pennsylvania	746	4.2	9.9
Oklahoma	731	7.0	5.3
Arizona	717	5.9	17.7
New Jersey	704	4.2	19.9
Missouri	629	5.1	15.0
Virginia	588	4.1	17.8
Connecticut	550	6.9	21.7
Maryland	516	3.6	12.9
Indiana	502	4.4	2.2

Table 7. Number of State prisoners held in local jails because of prison crowding, by State, yearend 1987 and 1988

States housing prisoners in local jails	Prisoners held in local jails			
	Number		As percent of all prisoners	
	1987	1988	1987	1988
Total	12,078	14,314	2.3%	2.5%
Alabama	763	471	5.9	3.7
Arizona[a]	0	485	0	3.8
Arkansas[a]	50	340	.9	5.7
Colorado	208	321	4.3	5.4
District of Columbia[b]	0	360	0	4.1
Idaho[a]	43	200	2.9	11.4
Kentucky	965	932	15.0	13.1
Louisiana[c]	3,784	4,132	24.6	25.2
Maine	23	21	1.7	1.6
Massachusetts[a]	0	303	0	4.3
Mississippi	874	1,042	12.8	14.0
New Jersey	2,283	2,267	16.7	13.4
South Carolina	468	434	3.7	3.2
Tennessee[a]	1,610	2,218	17.4	22.8
Utah	103	49	5.5	2.4
Vermont[d]	10	34	1.3	4.2
Virginia	848	960	6.4	6.8
Washington	46	0	.8	0

[a]For States not including jail backups in their jurisdiction counts, the percent of jurisdiction population was calculated on the combined total of jail and prison.
[b]Inmates housed in other States as a result of prison crowding.
[c]1988 data include 255 inmates not counted in the jurisdiction population.
[d]State-sentenced inmates housed in local lockups.

Estimating prison capacity

The extent of crowding in the Nation's prisons is difficult to determine precisely because of the absence of uniform measures for defining capacity. A wide variety of capacity measures is in use among the 52 reporting jurisdictions because capacity may reflect both available space to house inmates and the ability to staff and operate an institution. To estimate the capacity of the Nation's prisons, States were asked to supply up to three measures for yearend 1988--rated, operational, and design capacities. These measures were defined as follows:

- Rated capacity is the number of beds or inmates assigned by a rating official to institutions within the State.

- Operational capacity is the number of inmates that can be accommodated based on a facility's staff, existing programs, and services.

- Design capacity is the number of inmates that planners or architects intended for the facility.

Of the 52 reporting jurisdictions, 33 supplied rated capacities, 44 provided operational capacities, and 38 submitted design capacities (table 8). As a result, estimates of total capacity and measures of the relationship to population are based on the highest and lowest capacity figures provided. (Twenty-three States reported one capacity measure or gave the same figure for each capacity measure they reported.)

Most jurisdictions are operating above reported capacity

Prisons generally require reserve capacity to operate efficiently. Prison dormitories and cells need to be maintained and repaired periodically, special housing space is needed for protective custody and disciplinary cases, and space may be needed to cope with emergencies. At the end of 1988, 10 States reported they were operating below 95% of their highest capacity. Forty jurisdictions and the Federal Prison System reported operating at 100% or more of their lowest capacity; 34 of these held populations that met or exceeded their highest reported capacities.

Table 8. Reported Federal and State prison capacities, yearend 1988

Jurisdiction	Rated capacity	Operational capacity	Design capacity	Population as a percent of:[a] Highest capacity	Lowest capacity
Federal	29,112	37,469	29,112	133%	172%
Northeast					
Connecticut	7,731	7,153	...	104%	112%
Maine	934	934	934	137	137
Massachusetts	...	...	3,891	173	173
New Hampshire[b]	774	998	572	100	174
New Jersey	12,172	13,324	11,441	110	128
New York	...	45,141	40,095	99	111
Pennsylvania	...	...	12,972	138	138
Rhode Island	1,516	1,579	1,449	121	132
Vermont	597	597	597	130	130
Midwest					
Illinois	25,100	20,100	16,492	105%	128%
Indiana	10,412	...	...	110	110
Iowa	4,918	2,858	2,918	104	106
Kansas	...	4,293	...	138	138
Michigan	21,454	...	...	129	129
Minnesota	2,964	2,964	2,976	94	94
Missouri	...	12,800	...	97	97
Nebraska	...	...	1,651	134	134
North Dakota	...	516	516	90	90
Ohio	...	...	18,482	141	141
South Dakota	1,170	1,090	1,189	86	94
Wisconsin	4,683	...	4,683	134	134
South					
Alabama	11,182	11,162	11,162	109%	109%
Arkansas	...	5,530	...	100	100
Delaware	2,090	2,880	2,090	110	151
District of Columbia	7,417	...	...	113	113
Florida	38,894	35,618	27,418	89	127
Georgia	...	17,298	...	109	109
Kentucky	6,602	6,469	...	94	96
Louisiana	12,330	12,330	12,330	100	100
Maryland	...	14,561	11,352	98	126
Mississippi	6,651	6,318	6,511	96	101
North Carolina	18,668	14,767	...	91	116
Oklahoma	...	7,378	...	142	142
South Carolina	11,793	11,793	9,443	113	141
Tennessee	...	7,754	...	97	97
Texas[c]	41,319	39,244	41,319	95	100
Virginia	11,460	11,460	11,460	115	115
West Virginia[b]	1,547	1,640	1,547	85	90
West					
Alaska	...	2,793	...	93%	93%
Arizona	...	12,240	12,240	99	99
California	46,279	70,706	46,279	108	165
Colorado	4,985	5,058	3,538	112	160
Hawaii	...	2,130	1,691	111	140
Idaho	1,163	1,406	1,163	110	133
Montana	784	1,073	784	119	162
Nevada	...	4,637	3,731	105	131
New Mexico	2,671	2,751	2,671	103	106
Oregon	4,077	4,722	2,746	127	218
Utah	...	2,464	2,210	79	88
Washington	5,914	6,523	5,914	89	98
Wyoming	...	950	...	101	101

...Data not available.
[a]Excludes State-sentenced inmates held in local jails due to crowding where they have been included in the total prisoner count.
[b]Capacity figures available for males only. West Virginia reports an additional capacity to house 82 female prisoners.
[c]Capacity figures exclude 912 beds in halfway houses and 286 beds in psychiatric facilities.

Overall, State prisons were estimated to be operating at approximately 107% of their highest reported capacities and at 123% of their lowest reported capacities (table 9). The Federal system was estimated to be operating between 133% and 172% of capacity.

Between 1987 and 1988, State and Federal prison capacities were estimated to have increased by approximately 28,000-31,000 beds (based on the highest and lowest capacities in table 9). At the end of 1988, estimated capacities were:

	Highest reported capacity	Lowest reported capacity
U.S. total	566,898	491,596
Federal	37,469	29,112
State	529,429	462,484

Approximately 6% of the available capacity nationwide at the end of 1988 was maintained by the Federal Government, while about 8% of the Nation's inmates were subject to the jurisdiction of Federal prison authorities.

Table 9. Population as a percentage of reported capacity for State and Federal prisons, 1986-88

	U.S. total	Federal prisons	State prisons
Population as a percent of capacity*			
Highest			
1986	108%	127%	106%
1987	107	137	105
1988	109	133	107
Lowest			
1986	126%	159%	124%
1987	124	173	120
1988	125	172	123
Net change in capacity 1987-88			
Highest	31,089	2,193	28,896
Lowest	27,935	1,258	26,677

Note: States were asked to report their rated, operational, and design capacities. Tabulations reflect the highest and lowest of the 3 capacities reported for 1986, 1987, and 1988.
*Excludes State-sentenced inmates held in local jails due to crowding where they have been included in the total prisoner count.

Crime and prison population growth

There is some evidence that during the period 1980-87 changes in criminal justice policies have increased a criminal's probability of being incarcerated from levels existing in prior years. Murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary are among the most serious crimes, and they account for approximately half of prison commitments from courts. In 1960 there were 62 prison commitments for every 1,000 of these crimes reported to the police (table 10). During the rest of the decade this ratio steadily declined, reaching 23 in 1970, and was relatively stable during the 1970's. Between 1980 and 1987 the ratio increased 92%, from 25 commitments per 1,000 reported crimes to 48.

Similarly, between 1960 and 1970 the ratio of prison commitments to adult arrests for the selected crimes declined from 299 per 1,000 to 170. This ratio was relatively stable during the rest of the 1970's, but it increased by 54% between 1980 and 1987, from 196 commitments per 1,000 adult arrests to 301. (See "Methodological note" for more detail on these data.)

Admissions-to-crime ratios for individual States provide an alternative measure of prison use to population-based rates (table 11). Population-based incarceration rates take into account the number of sentenced prisoners and the size of the resident population in a jurisdiction. The crime-based rate measures entry into prison relative to the magnitude of the crime problem during a year.

Between 1980 and 1987 the ratio of court commitments to prison and reported crimes increased 92%, from 25 commitments per 1,000 crimes to 48 (table 12). Over the same period the number of prison commitments per 100,000 adult residents increased 56%, from 80 to 125. The Northeast had the largest percentage increase in the number of commitments relative to reported crime while the West experienced the largest percentage gain in

Table 10. Court commitments to State prisons relative to offenses and arrests, 1960-87

Year	Commitments to prison per 1,000: Selected serious offenses	Adult arrests for same offenses
1960	62	299
1965	45	261
1970	23	170
1975	26	185
1980	25	196
1981	29	214
1982	35	219
1983	39	247
1984	39	246
1985	42	266
1986	43	268
1987	48	301

Note: Selected offenses include murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Data for crimes reported to the police and adult arrests are from Federal Bureau of Investigation, Crime in the United States, 1978-87 (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office). Commitments to prison are inmates admitted from sentencing courts. The data on which this table is based are presented in the Methodology.

Table 11. State prison admissions relative to selected serious offenses and the adult population, by State, 1980 and 1987

Region and State	Admissions per 1,000 selected offenses 1980	Admissions per 1,000 selected offenses 1987	Admissions per 100,000 adults 1980	Admissions per 100,000 adults 1987
U. S. total	25	48	80	125
Northeast	15	37	48	81
Connecticut	37	52	105	112
Maine	28	53	54	66
Massachusetts	8	22	26	47
New Hampshire	14	34	30	39
New Jersey	14	43	49	87
New York	13	39	56	116
Pennsylvania	17	29	33	42
Rhode Island	12	15	35	34
Vermont	32	57	77	96
Midwest	28	44	71	95
Illinois	32	36	78	95
Indiana	37	65	88	112
Iowa	28	45	50	70
Kansas	26	43	69	87
Michigan	20	31	67	96
Minnesota	12	24	25	45
Missouri	24	52	74	117
Nebraska	35	39	56	58
North Dakota	47	79	36	56
Ohio	45	63	97	127
South Dakota	61	119	71	107
Wisconsin	26	41	46	62
South	38	59	116	176
Alabama	49	53	138	129
Arkansas	50	66	104	136
Delaware	30	79	88	153
District of Columbia	36	93	213	407
Florida	24	64	109	273
Georgia	49	77	156	227
Kentucky	47	50*	86	80
Louisiana	31	55	100	168
Maryland	30	50	107	128
Mississippi	43	60	97	127
North Carolina	61	80	158	197
Oklahoma	38	71	111	214
South Carolina	47	62	153	172
Tennessee	33	21	89	53
Texas	38	49	129	191
Virginia	36	84	75	123
West Virginia	30	49	38	48
West	17	40	66	124
Alaska	42	116	115	245
Arizona	24	57	97	174
California	15	41	66	134
Colorado	16	36	55	98
Hawaii	9	28	28	54
Idaho	34	56	78	97
Montana	34	63	55	84
Nevada	26	71	136	219
New Mexico	17	33	53	114
Oregon	27	40	83	125
Utah	15	26	39	50
Washington	14	20	46	63
Wyoming	38	63	71	90

Note: Prison admissions refer to the number of prisoners received from courts with sentences of more than 1 year. Selected offenses are murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Adults are the resident population age 18 and over.
*Admissions to custody only.
Sources: National Prisoner Statistics (NPS) Crime in the United States, 1980 and 1987; Bureau of the Census estimates of population.

prison commitments relative to population. However, in both 1980 and 1987 the South had the largest number of court commitments to prison relative to reported crime and to population.

Besides the increased use of prison relative to reported crime, arrests, and resident population, prison population has also been affected by changes in the extent of the illegal drug problem. An estimated two-thirds of those in State prisons for a drug offense were convicted of trafficking or manufacturing illegal drugs.* Since 1980 the number of adult arrests for drug violations has increased by 80% and the number of arrests for sales or manufacturing of illegal drugs has grown by 113% (table 13).

Surveys of State prison inmates in 1979 and 1986 also illustrate the prevalence of active drug involvement among prisoners. In 1979, 42.7% of the 288,086 offenders in State prisons either had been convicted of a drug crime or had been daily users of illegal drugs in the month preceding the offense for which they were imprisoned. In 1986, 46.8% of the 500,725 prisoners in State institutions were found to be actively involved in drugs, either as users or by conviction for a drug offense. Over the period 1979 to 1986, when State prison populations increased by 212,639, the number of offenders in prison who had been actively involved in drugs increased by 111,326.

Methodological note

This Bulletin is based upon an advance count of prisoners conducted immediately after a calendar year ends. A detailed, final count of prisoners and prisoner movements will be published later.

The data used to compute the rates in table 10 are presented in the appendix table.

*Profile of State prison inmates, 1986, BJS Special Report, NCJ-109926, January 1988 and Drug use and crime, BJS Special Report, NCJ-11940, July 1988.

Table 12. Percent change in State prison admissions relative to selected serious offenses and the adult population, by region, 1980 and 1987

Region	Admissions per 1,000 selected offenses			Admissions per 100,000 adults		
	1980	1987	Percent change 1980-87	1980	1987	Percent change 1980-87
U.S. total	25	48	92%	80	125	56%
Northeast	15	37	147	48	81	69
Midwest	28	44	57	71	95	34
South	38	59	55	116	176	52
West	17	40	135	66	124	88

Note: See note on table 11.

Table 13. Adult arrests for drug violations, 1980-87

Year	Number of adult arrests for drug violations		
	Total	Sale or manufacture	Possession
1980	471,165	102,714	368,451
1981	468,056	93,143	374,913
1982	584,850	119,309	465,541
1983	583,474	128,948	454,526
1984	623,719	137,218	486,501
1985	718,597	170,307	548,290
1986	742,687	186,414	556,273
1987	849,521	219,176	630,345
Percent change 1980-87	80.3%	113.4%	71.1%

Source: Estimates derived from Crime in the United States, 1980-87.

Appendix table. Data used to compute the rates in table 10

Year	Number of court commitments to prison for any offense	Number of selected serious offenses reported to the police	Estimated number of adult arrests for same offenses
1960	74,852	1,200,560	250,468
1965	74,724	1,669,890	286,685
1970	67,304	2,943,820	395,678
1975	112,803	4,278,380	609,764
1980	130,323	5,139,720	666,063
1981	149,186	5,141,520	697,409
1982	164,648	4,769,490	752,873
1983	173,289	4,387,990	702,662
1984	166,927	4,257,680	677,275
1985	183,131	4,400,740	688,864
1986	203,315	4,729,540	757,797
1987	225,627	4,720,183	749,650

Note: The number of court commitments to prison is based upon the total number of entries from sentencing courts with sentences greater than 1 year. The number of reported offenses is derived from annual publications from the FBI on the number of murders, nonnegligent manslaughters, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, and burglaries reported to police agencies. The estimated number of adult arrests for these crimes is derived by multiplying the estimated total number of arrests by the percentage of known arrests age 18 and older, as reported annually by the FBI. For 1960 and 1965, estimates of adult arrests were based on FBI data for total known arrests for those years and were weighted for reporting coverage (see Crime in the United States, 1970, tables 24-25). By year, the percent of adult arrests among all arrests for these crimes was:

1960 - 65.7%	1982 - 71.5%
1965 - 61.4%	1983 - 72.1%
1970 - 61.5%	1984 - 73.0%
1975 - 60.8%	1985 - 73.2%
1980 - 67.4%	1986 - 75.4%
1981 - 69.1%	1987 - 75.7%

Explanatory notes

Alabama. Capacity in residential programs is not included in the reported capacity figures.

Alaska. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Arizona. Population counts are based on custody data. Population counts exclude 485 male inmates housed in local jails due to crowding.

Arkansas. Population counts for male "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less." The male population counts exclude 335 male inmates housed in local jails due to crowding. The Arkansas Department of Corrections has only one type of capacity, which is set by the Board of Corrections. This capacity is reported as operational capacity.

California. Population counts are based on custody data.

Colorado. Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less." Capacity figures include 465 spaces in residential community centers.

Connecticut. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Delaware. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

District of Columbia. Population counts exclude those inmates housed in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities. Population counts include 360 inmates housed in other States as a result of crowding.

Federal. Population counts for "Unsentenced inmates" include 1,837 males and 19 females who come under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Capacity figures apply to Bureau of Prisons institutions only and do not include capacity provided by contract facilities.

Florida. Population counts are based on custody data.

Georgia. Population counts are based on custody data. In accordance with the policy of Georgia's Department of Corrections, inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup are not included in the jurisdiction population until they enter a State prison.

Hawaii. Population counts are as of January 1, 1989. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Idaho. Population counts are based on custody data.

Indiana. Population counts are based on custody data.

Iowa. Population counts are based on custody data.

Maryland. While population totals are actual manual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates based on the actual sentence length breakdowns of Maryland's automated data system.

Massachusetts. Population counts are based on custody data as of December 30, 1988. Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less." Population totals are actual counts; however, the male/female breakdown is an estimate believed to be within 0.1% of the actual counts. By law, offenders in Massachusetts may be sentenced to terms of up to 2 1/2 years in locally operated jails and correctional institutions. Such populations are excluded from the State count but are included in published population counts and rates for local jails and correctional institutions.

Michigan. Population counts include inmates in the custody of Michigan's Department of Corrections and inmates in Michigan's Community Residential Program. Capacity figures exclude the capacities of the Community Residential Program.

Nevada. Reported capacity figures exclude space for females at Nevada's Restitution Centers.

New Hampshire. New Hampshire has no facility to house female inmates. Thus, all females are housed in county, Federal, or other States' facilities.

New Jersey. Rated, operational, and design capacities include 592 bedspaces in county facilities.

North Carolina. While population totals are actual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates believed to be accurate within 1% of the actual counts.

Ohio. Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" include an undetermined number of "Inmates with a sentence of 1 year or less."

Oklahoma. Population counts for "Inmates with over 1 year maximum sentence" may include a small undetermined number of inmates with a sentence of 1 year.

Oregon. Operational capacity excludes 150 beds rented from the State of Washington.

Rhode Island. In this State, prisons and jails form one integrated system. All NPS data include, therefore, both jail and prison populations.

Tennessee. Population counts are based on custody data. Population counts exclude the 2,218 inmates (male and female) housed in local jails due to crowding.

Texas. Population counts are based on custody data. Capacity figures exclude 912 beds in halfway houses and 286 beds in psychiatric facilities.

Vermont. Population counts are as of December 15, 1988. In this State, prisons and jails form an almost completely integrated system. However, some county and municipal authorities do operate local lockups. NPS data include both jail and prison populations. The counts for jail crowding include 34 inmates housed in local lockups. While population totals are actual counts, the breakdowns for sentence length are estimates believed to be accurate within 3% of the actual counts.

Washington. Capacity figures exclude space in work release facilities which housed 524 male and 28 female inmates on December 31, 1988.

West Virginia. The female population counts are based on custody data. The male jurisdiction count excludes an undetermined number of inmates housed in local jails awaiting pickup.

Wyoming. The operational capacity figure is the absolute total bedspace available to Wyoming's Department of Corrections, and it includes 60 bedspaces in community centers.

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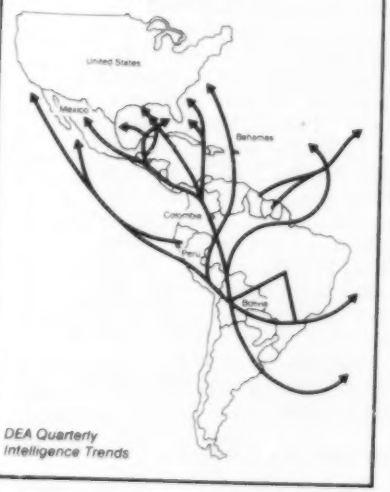

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